

The enclosed information is being sent to you by a committee of interested parents and tax payers of the Lewis and Clark School District to inform you why we consider the merger of Lewis and Clark and Warrenton to be of educational value.

Education of our children has been and will be our responsibility for many years. It is apparent to us that with greater assessed wealth it will be easier to raise the money necessary to carry out the educational philosophy that our community needs.

Education of high quality is expensive, but far more costly is the waste of human resources in poorly educated students whose talents are lost to this nation.

At the present time our 7th & 8th grade students do not have the opportunity to take a foreign language, Home Ec or shop. With merger these things and other can be added and still pay a lesser tax.

This community has always been very proud of its' school. We have many fine and dedicated teachers. I think any of you that come to a band concert will be the first to admit that our music department, for an elementary school, is one of the best in the state. This statement is not made to single out any one area of the curriculum for particular praise, but this, as a part of the overall curriculum, helps to make us realize what we might not be able to continue.

The budget for the 1970-1971 school year is being prepared and we can expect it to be approximately \$13.00 for \$1,000 of TCV. The Warrenton budget is also being prepared and will probably be approximately \$13.00 of \$1,000 TCV. Combine the wealth of both districts \$21,500,000 and \$19,500,000 for a total of \$41,000,000. Add the value of the aluminum plant of \$50,000,000. This will bring your tax to approximately \$4.56; with addition of \$2,000,000 for a new Junior High School add \$2.09 making a total of \$6.65. We hope you can visualize what an educational system would be available for our students even if your tax is \$6.65 per \$1,000 TCV, which is about half of what is now being paid. Figure your home on a \$10,000 TCV and your tax will be \$45.50 plus \$20.90 making a total tax of \$66.40.

We well realize you are going to say our tax will be higher than that for several years. The aluminum plant is supposed to be on the tax roll in 1972. It is well to note that the funding of the aluminum plant is presently set at \$68,000,000, not the conservative \$50,000,000 that is assumed in this fact sheet. By the time that planning for a new Junior High is completed and bonds sold, the aluminum plant will probably be on the tax roll. With this fact in mind, it is apparent that taxes would not be at the "ballooned" \$20.00 per TCV as rumored by some persons or, if there were a delay in construction of the aluminum plant, this presumed high rate would exist for a maximum of one year.

Dorothy J. Nickola
Ed. K.

Melvin W. Hartell
Donald Fler

There seems to be much misinformation or lack of information on the tax issues which are creating much conjecture in the minds of the voters from the Lewis and Clark / Warrenton School Districts. Rather than pass on the various number and tax values that are "presumed", I have been handed a fact sheet (that can be substantiated) to hopefully aid those voters who are still in a quandary as to how they might be affected taxwise by the proposed consolidation.

These are the facts:

HISTORY

Some years ago, before any possibility of an aluminum plant was known the Lewis and Clark Board approached the Warrenton board, regarding possible consolidation. Their reason was that development of an industrial site inside the Warrenton district was inevitable and they feared Lewis & Clark area would become the "bedroom area for the employees of such a development. In other words, Warrenton would get the increased tax base and Lewis & Clark would have the burden of educating an increased school population. After a number of meetings the matter was dropped. We believe the reason Warrenton board was approached originally is still pertinent, particularly in view of the recent announcement by Northwest Aluminum Company.

WEALTH

Lewis & Clark and Warrenton are both poor schools presently in terms of tax base per student. Astoria is also poor, having the least tax base per student in the county. All three districts draw equalization funds from the state and are the only ones to do so in the County.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Regardless of merger in any number of ways or the retention of the status quo, it is our understanding that additional construction in both areas is needed. Certainly Warrenton needs new facilities for the 7th and 8th grades now at Fort Stevens. It is our understanding Lewis & Clark also needs additional space for the 7th & 8th grades and may be faced with the possibility of tuitioning those students to Astoria.

Warrenton and Lewis & Clark has the same problem with regard to the 7th & 8th grades. Combining those students in one school cannot help but be more economical than separate schools, assuming the same full curriculum.

HIGH SCHOOL

Warrenton High School was built for 400 students and has slightly more than half of that. Of classrooms available for general classes, there is a vacancy of approximately one-third and many of the other classes could be increased in size without forfeiting teaching

effectiveness. Upon a merger certain additions are indicated to provide space for an expanded curriculum, particularly in the vocational education category. Installation of equipment to serve lunches and expansion of parking is also indicated, but obviously the opportunity exists to take on many more students at a nominal addition to existing facilities.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Some Lewis & Clark residents have objected to assuming any part of the remaining debt of \$308,000 on Warrenton High School. At current ratio of assessed value Lewis & Clark would assume upon merger about 52% or \$160,000 of that debt. Overlooked, however, is the fact that Lewis & Clark district, through merger would obtain a 52% interest in the High School. The last appraisal dated December 1968, of Warrenton High School puts the insurable replacement cost of buildings, ground improvements and equipment at \$997,093. This excludes foundations and approximately 28 acres of land. Admittedly the replacement cost depreciated is less but a value of not less than \$750,000 is indicated. On merger Lewis & Clark can be said to get an equity of \$390,000 for a cost of \$160,000.

FINANCES

Warrenton's tax levy for the current year of \$11.37 per \$1,000 true cash value is \$2.26 more than the Lewis & Clark levy of \$9.11. It is interesting to note also that Lewis & Clark has a tuition deficit, according to the newspaper, of \$20,000 for the current year or about \$1.00 per \$1,000 of true cash value.

Had the levies of the two districts been combined for the 1969 levy the tax rate would have been \$10.17.

EFFECT OF \$50,000,000 INCREASE IN WARRENTON'S TAX BASE

Assuming the first phase of construction of an aluminum plant had added \$50,000,000 to Warrenton's tax base the above tax levies would be changed as follows?

Warrenton	\$3.15 per \$1,000 of TCV
Lewis & Clark	9.11 per \$1,000 of TCV
IF MERGED	4.56 per \$1,000 of TCV

NEW BOND ISSUE

Assuming a \$2,000,000 20-year bond issue at 7% and an annual debt levy of \$190,000 the increased tax on the present valuation of both districts would be \$4.67 per \$1,000. Assuming a \$50,000,000 addition to the base for new construction the levy would be \$2.09 for debt service on a merged district.

Note: If a bond issue is incurred before the aluminum plant is on the tax rolls, a good strategy would be to defer redemption of bonds as long as practicable.